

# CANNONS

— of Construction —

Mail Sales Agreement No. 465224

Volume 30, Number 4

The Law Students Newspaper

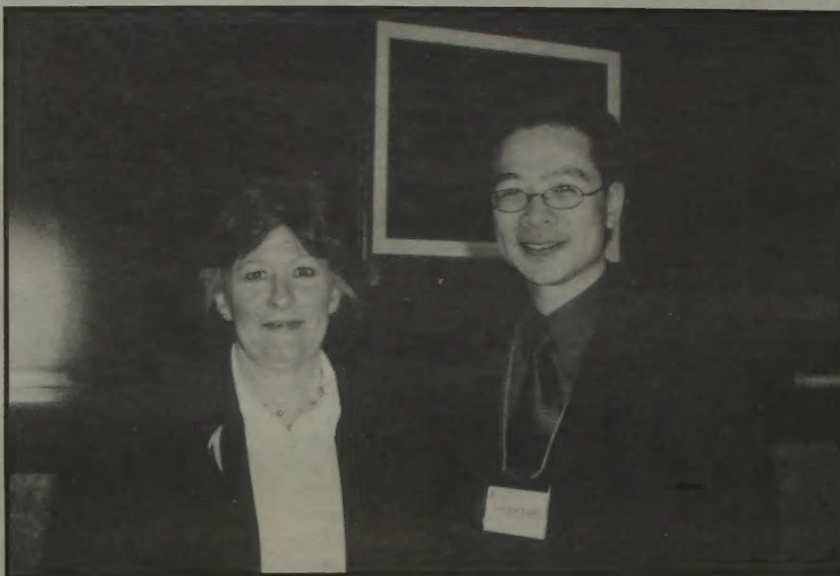
April 2000

## A Visit with Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour

by Gerard N. Law (1L)

I had the privilege to take tea with Madame Justice Louise Arbour when she came to Edmonton on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Cannons has afforded me a place to recollect this event. Justice Arbour was here to give the Second Annual University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights. Three of the students who had entered the contest to introduce Justice Arbour were invited to sit with her that afternoon. The chat was very informal and touched on everything from her children to her current post on the Supreme Court.

Our time was sandwiched between Justice Arbour's visit to our Law School and her interview with the Edmonton media, a brief pause in her hectic two-day tour. Justice Arbour is no stranger to hectic schedules. Her previous post as the Chief Prosecutor of the ICTR/ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for Rowanda / Former Yugoslavia), she ironically describes as something akin to a Bond movie without the cinematic perks. Her mood then turned serious. Taking on that job, she said, was like packing every jot of ethics and legal acumen that she had accumulated in her life and then



Justice Arbour with U of A law student Gerard Law.

spending it in great bursts. At every moment, she had expected the account to be overdrawn and to be left with nothing more to expend. At the evening lecture, Justice Arbour spoke about the ICC (International Criminal Court), the development of which is a subject of passionate interest to her. The ICC would be a permanent organ, replacing ICTY/

ICTR.

The Supreme Court, while still challenging, is a considerably more sedate post. The Supreme Court is where Justice Arbour began her legal career when she clerked for Justice Pigeon. The atmosphere there today is much different from those times past, Justice Arbour smilingly told me. Clerks used to

meet with their judges only once a week and with much trepidation. Today, Justice Arbour works amicably with her own clerks and meets them on a daily basis. She also let me in on the room with the non-agonal table. When decisions are considered, only the nine justices are allowed in the room. The discussion then begins with the most

junior justice, currently Justice Arbour, and circles around in ascending order of seniority.

Articles on Justice Arbour often discuss her family and I could certainly sense her joyful pride when we spoke about her children. Justice Arbour currently lives with her youngest daughter in Ottawa. The other children are at University, where her son is currently on a school-sponsored trek in Africa. From Africa the conversation segued to travel in general and to Singapore where Justice Arbour and I had both spent some time. Singapore provided a base for Justice Arbour from which she and her family managed to see much of South East Asia. She passed on some wisdom she had learnt during her travels - never pass up an opportunity to journey. Never rely on the assurance of a second chance to retake a missed route.

Our brief time came to an end as the journalists had finished setting up their gear. My impression of Justice Arbour after this short time is that of a witty, compassionate and thoughtful woman. Hers is a mind filled with rare knowledge and unique experiences that demand to be explored.

## U of A Law Boasts Top-Quality Mooters

by Blair Barbour (3L)

Another moot season is coming to a close and all indications are that our mooters have once again distinguished themselves. From Kingston to Victoria, U of A mooters have demonstrated superior advocacy skills and have proven that U of A ranks among the top schools in Canada for the breadth and quality of our moot program.

The Laskin team was the first of the national appellate moots to compete, and received the Judges' Discretionary Award for their skills in advocacy demonstrated during the competition in Kingston. The highlight of the competition according to the team was a toss-up between the able defeat of McGill's team in the first round and Professor DeCoste demonstrating his Maritime roots while playing the spoons. The problem for this moot is always one of mixed administrative and constitutional law. A unique requirement is that at least one of the members of the team must write and argue their case in French. This year the mooters were Diane Boonstra, Mark Greene, Shannon Prithipaul, and Stella Varvis.

The Gale team also should be congratulated for a strong performance. That team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the standings during their visit to Toronto. Sebastian

Anderson, Kirk Beler, Denese Espeut, and Paul Eastwood argued a problem that dealt with constitutional and criminal law. Kirk Beler described his moot experience as "the best activity in law school" that he had ever participated in. Highlights of the competition included the opportunity to moot in old Osgoode Hall and a speech by Justice Iacobucci commemorating the career of Justice Cory.

The Jessup International Moot team did not have any information as to their placement at the competition but members were satisfied with the team's performance at the competition in Calgary. Of special note was the memorable drive to Calgary during which team members recited the lyrics to the Sound of Music. The members of the team were Marisa Anderson, Michelle Mackay, Patricia Tiffen, Tim Patterson, and Robert Palser. Marisa recommends the Jessup to students so long as they are aware at the outset that the subject matter of the moot, international law, is difficult to argue without taking a course in international law, and the number of practice rounds required is typically much more than the other appellate moot teams encounter.

The Corporate/Securities Moot Team recently returned

from Toronto and reported a solid performance by all members. This moot is unique in that there is an extremely short preparation period, and all mooters must argue from both sides of the problem. Jason Rohrick was impressed with the presence of the top securities lawyers at the competition, including the lawyer who argued the Onyx takeover bid for Air Canada. The members of the team were Adam Henwood, Jason Rohrick, Lynn-Michelle Mortensen, and Shaf Kassam. Jason described his experience as the most valuable exercise he had undertaken in law school.

The Clinton J. Ford Moot was the earliest of the appellate moots to take place. This moot is an internal moot open to third year students only, and is timed to provide first year students with the opportunity to see their senior classmates argue issues of constitutional and criminal law. Presiding over the moot were Patrick Bendin of the Federal Department of Justice, Judge Franklin of the Alberta Provincial Court, and Justice Costigan of the Alberta Court of Appeal. The mooters this year were Tina Huizinga, John Cusano, Ryan DuRussel, and Blair Barbour.

Last, but not least, of the appellate moots is the Alberta

Court of Appeal Moot. This competition takes place each year between second year students of the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. The competition is divided among three different moots comprising constitutional, civil, and criminal law. The members of the team were Keith Reichert and Rebecca Sober (Constitutional), Craig McMahon and Jane Fedoretz (Civil), and Pam Vidal and Shane King (Criminal). Pam has enjoyed her experience and would recommend the moot as a valuable opportunity to improve one's drafting and advocacy skills. She remarked that watching Professor Robb and Jack Watson trade stories from past trials was an unexpected and entertaining bonus to her moot experience.

Moots outside of the appellate context also occurred this year. Lauren Zaychuk and Glen Taylor placed second in the Western Canadian Trial Moot in Victoria and will be arguing at the Sopinka Trial Moot Competition in Ottawa this spring. Sebastien Anderson and Bonnie Bokenfohr represented the faculty at the Labour Arbitration Competition. They also placed second.

The University of Alberta

Client Counselling Competition was won by Nathan Baines and Brent Kornack. They represented the faculty in the ABA Client Counselling Competition in Portland, Oregon. The Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot Team consisting of Kevin Brosseau, Christine Horst, and Garry Laboucan represented the faculty in Windsor. All teams deserve congratulations and much credit for their hard work and preparation.

A final congratulations and thanks to the many coaches, judges, and advisors who have sacrificed their afternoons, evenings, and weekends to prepare the teams for their competitions. Without you, the moot program would not be able to get off the ground. Because of you, students are given the benefit of your years of experience and perspective that aid them greatly in competition and later in professional life.

As a student who has participated in the moot program in the last two years, I recommend that both first year and second year students consider competing next year. The experience provides students with an opportunity to enhance their research and advocacy skills.

# NEWS

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Career Services Update

by Carol Lawrence, Career Services Officer

As many of you have already heard, this will be my last term with the Faculty of Law as I will be leaving at the end of April to take on a more active role in a busy (touch wood!) family business and at home. I have very much enjoyed the three academic years I have spent at the faculty, particularly the opportunity I have had to work with and help so many wonderful students. The faculty will be hiring another Career Services Officer, though at this time I don't know whether he/she will be on board for May 1, 2000. If not, I understand that interim skeletal services such as current job postings and access to resources will be maintained. Any inquiries in this regard should be directed to the Dean's office.

I thought I would leave you with the following pointers that may be relevant to your search for summer and articling employment, or your commencement of articles, over the next few months.

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT:

I expect that a few more postings for summer employment will be received between now and early May. These will be posted under glass and on the Career Services Secure Website, [https://webct.srv.ualberta.ca/SCRIPT/lawco/scripts/serve\\_home](https://webct.srv.ualberta.ca/SCRIPT/lawco/scripts/serve_home).

### ARTICLING HIRING - SECOND YEAR STUDENTS:

With the newly-implemented Law Society articling hiring rules (recall past e-mails and notices), employers (other than courts) in Edmonton and Calgary cannot begin their interviews until June 1, 2000 other than in exceptional circumstances where a student is unavailable in June. The Law Society will advise by April 15 of a date in June on which offers may be made by firms not participating in the Calgary matching program (see below).

Offers must be left open for acceptance for at least one hour. If any firms advise me of a change in their application deadlines from those set out in the Articling Handbook, this will be posted under glass and on the Career Services Secure Website (see "Summer Employment, above, for address). Please also periodically check under glass or on the website for 2001-2002 articling opportunities posted with us by firms who did not come to Career Day and are not featured in the Articling Handbook.

**Important Note:** You should also be aware that not all firms that hire articling students advertise their opportunities. Therefore, you may also wish to consult legal directories or the phone book in order to identify

some additional firms to contact or send resumes to for 2001-2002 articles.

With respect to Calgary recruiting, most of you will have already seen the information under glass on this year's Calgary matching program and the firms participating in it. Students wishing to apply to the match firms should pick up a "Request for Student Agreement Package" form from outside my office and submit it to National Matching Services as soon as possible in order to have their names registered in the match. Not all Calgary firms hire through the match, though, and as indicated above, you should check the Articling Handbook, the postings, and make your own inquiries of firms for other articling opportunities.

Students who are applying to Edmonton and Calgary firms with application deadlines on or about May 15, 2000 may wonder what to do about providing their second term grades. I suggest that you attempt to provide those grades (or as many of them as are available) to firms by their deadlines or as soon as possible thereafter. Although official grades will not be available until later in May, transcripts containing unofficial second term grades can be obtained from the Registrar's office within a day or two of the grades being available on the

university's Grade Reporting Service.

With respect to Vancouver recruiting, the Law Society of B.C. will, by the end of April, be prescribing a date in late August by which all articling offers made by downtown Vancouver firms must remain open for acceptance. Several of these firms are expected to agree to conduct interviews during the week immediately prior to that date. When we are advised of the exact date, the information will be posted under glass and on the Career Services Secure Website. I hope to receive a copy of the UBC Articling Handbook soon, which contains B.C. firm information and provides a good supplement to that contained in our own Articling Handbook. When I do, I'll let everyone know by e-mail and posting. The Articling Committee and I also have several Vancouver firm brochures for viewing in our offices.

As to Toronto hiring, I expect to receive shortly information about the Toronto matching program and will notify students when it is here. Again, those interested in participating in it should pick up a "Request for Student Agreement Package" from my office and send it in to

National Matching Services. Ontario law firm surveys and copies of the U of T, U of Ottawa, and U Western Ontario Articling Handbooks, which supplement our Articling Handbook well, are available in my office and you are welcome to look at them. The Articling Committee and I also have several Ontario firm brochures for viewing.

Anyone having questions about recruiting in other cities or provinces is invited to see me.

### ARTICLING HIRING - THIRD YEAR STUDENTS:

I expect to receive notices from some firms during the balance of the school term and over the summer for 2000-2001 articling positions. These will be posted under glass and on the Career Services Secure Website (see "Summer Employment, above, for address). The University issued GPU ID and password, which are needed to access this site, will be in effect for six months after the third years' departure from the school. Third years still looking for articles are also invited to see me prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> for advice and guidance on their articling search. This might include a review, or further review, of their

Continued on page 14

## Mooting Program

by Blair Barbour (3L)

The U of A's moot program is proving successful overall, however, there is always room to improve. I recently expressed some concerns and suggestions to the Associate Dean regarding what others and I perceived as areas of the moot program that need to be examined. These included the timing of the Brimacombe selection round, the need for better promotion of the program, the variance that exists in coaching styles, and the fact that there is no formal mechanism for student feedback. Associate Dean Ross considered these concerns and would like students' comments on the following points:

1) The approach to coaching varies. Is this perceived as a problem? If so, would an appropriate response be to provide for some student evaluation of coaches? Evaluation forms are not filled out respecting coaches and, under university policy, the usual forms would not appropriately be used due to the small size of the "courses." Faculties are, however, permitted to use alternative approaches to evaluate

small courses.

Anonymous evaluations are not realistic when there are only four students, so perhaps an alternative such as team evaluations, answering open-ended questions, would be a good approach. These evaluations could be provided to the coach for feedback, and to the Associate Dean for consideration in assigning coaching responsibilities in future years.

2) Other ways to encourage particular approaches to coaching might be to adopt a faculty policy regarding reviewing rough drafts of factums and/or describing other aspects of the role of coaches (e.g., to provide comment sheets to be filled out by practice round judges, to attend meetings with the mooters after practice rounds, to provide input on substantive legal issues, or to arrange for this to be done by other faculty members).

3) How important is the scheduling of the Brimacombe selection round? It was at the end of October this year. Is it important to move it ahead, perhaps to the end of September? Will this have a positive or negative

impact on student participation?

4) How could the competitive moot program be better promoted? Should students be solicited to participate based on their performance in first year moots?

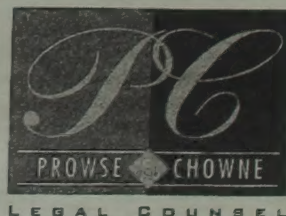
5) Would a Mooters Committee or a student moot club have a useful role - perhaps in promoting moots, arranging for experienced mooters to mentor new mooters, supporting mooters in other ways (perhaps keeping a collection of factums). Should such a group be elected student representatives on a faculty committee or an independent student club?

Associate Dean Ross would like students, especially those who have mooted, to contact her with any comments on these proposals or if you have any further suggestions. With your help, future students will be able to benefit from the feedback of those who have gone before them. Associate Dean Ross can be contacted by email at [jross@law.ualberta.ca](mailto:jross@law.ualberta.ca) or students can leave their comments and suggestions with Louisa Maciuk at the Associate Dean's Office.

## Campus COPY Centre Ltd

11153 - 87 Avenue (next door to Earl's)  
Ph: 780-439-4252 Fax: 780-431-0332  
e-mail: [copyctr@telusplanet.net](mailto:copyctr@telusplanet.net)

- High Speed B/W Copying
- Full Colour / Hard Copy or Disk
- Cerox Binding
- Typesetting
- Specialty Papers
- Scanning



Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 100  
10328 - 81 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
Canada T6E 1X2  
Phone: (780) 439 - 7171  
Fax: (780) 439 - 0475

ISO 9002 Registered Firm  
QCB Certificate #96-128

## Bryan & Company

Barristers • Solicitors  
Trade Mark Agents

EDMONTON OFFICE  
2600 MANULIFE PLACE  
10180 - 101 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
CANADA T5J 3Y2  
PHONE (780) 423-5730  
FAX (780) 428-6324

CALGARY OFFICE  
3520 FIRST CANADIAN CENTRE  
350 - 7 AVENUE S.W.  
CALGARY, ALBERTA  
CANADA T2P 3N9  
PHONE (403) 269-7220  
FAX (403) 269-9304

# NEWS

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

*Cannons of Construction*  
The Law Students' Newspaper

Publisher  
Elaine Anderson (3L)

Business Manager/Advertising  
Dion Legge (3L)

Editor  
Christine Mazur (3L)

Layout  
Dion Legge (3L)  
Stephanie Kwok (2L)

#### Contributors

Grant Brown (1L), Sandro Marrocco (2L), Carol Lawrence (LLB), Kate Clayton (2L), Dennis Schmidt (2L), Joe Sumiya (3L), Gerard Law (1L), Deb Szatyllo (1L), Andrea Klaiber (2L), Helen Yoon (2L), Stacy Paul Healy (2L), Blair Barbour (3L), Larissa Katz-Lang (3L), Marian Fluker (3L), Ayla Akgungor (3L), Jonathan Carlson (2L), Shannon O'Byrne, Lewis Klar, June Ross, Ted DeCoste.

Room 102A Law Centre, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H5  
Phone: (780) 492-5121  
Fax: (780) 492-4924  
Email: cmazur@ualberta.ca

*Cannons of Construction* is the official Law Student Newspaper of the University of Alberta Law Faculty. It is published quarterly during the regular University session at a circulation of 1200. *Cannons'* principal objectives are to provide equitable and judicious coverage of issues and events germane to Law Students at the University of Alberta and to provide an open forum for the free exchange and expression of thought, opinions and ideas.

All Law students and interested parties in the legal community are encouraged to contribute submissions, provided that contributions are accompanied by name, student number and telephone number. No articles will be published anonymously.

*Cannons* reserves the right to edit submissions for content, length, and legality.

*Cannons* will not publish materials deemed by the editor to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous.

Ideas and opinions expressed in *Cannons* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor and Staff.

All contents are copyright 2000. Contents may not be reprinted without the expressed permission of the Editor.

Printed by Gazette Press Ltd.  
25 Chisholm Ave., Box 263  
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1N3  
Phone: (780) 460-5500  
Fax: (780) 460-8220

## UPDATE ON THIRD YEAR DESTINATION STATISTICS

By Carol Lawrence, Career Services Officer

As of March 17, 2000 111 members (or 73%) of the 152 member third year class have advised me that they have articles or other confirmed employment following graduation. 32 members (or 21%) have advised me that they are still looking for articles. 9 members (or 6%) have not yet advised me of their status. These figures are almost identical to where we were at this time last year.

As a number of positions, particularly at small firms, do not arise until the period between now and this fall, I am confident that the third year students still looking for positions will find them. About 95% of our Class of 1999 have finalised positions. I

invite any third year students who are still looking for employment, and who have not yet seen me, to do so.

I ask any third year students who have not yet advised me of their status, or who have had a change in their status since last contacting me, to speak to me as soon as possible. The initial Destination List for the Class of 2000, containing the names and destinations of those class members who have consented to having their information included in it, will be made available free of charge to third year students at the beginning of April. This list will be updated periodically thereafter.

### Thank You!

...from Cannons to all contributors, photographers, and advertisers for making this year a huge success. You have all helped to make Cannons a high quality newspaper that is read by members of Alberta's legal community.

A very special thank you to Dion Legge and Stephanie Kwok for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure each issue was absolutely perfect - or as close to it as humanly possible.

Christine Mazur

## 'Fourth' Right Views "WITH GREAT APPRECIATION"

By Deans Lewis Klar, June Ross and Ted DeCoste

As you head into exams, let us take this opportunity to wish you all the best of luck. The next month will not be fun, but you will be done before you know it. Then we will be stuck with the marking.

It has been a very good year. Thank you to the great Third Year graduating class for their very kind words at the Graduation Dinner/Dance, and their generous and thoughtful gifts to the Alumni Association and the Faculty of Law. This is the first year that I can recall that a graduating class presented a class gift to the Faculty of Law at the dinner. It will become, I am certain, a great tradition. We will ensure that the Clock and its inscription "With Great Appreciation" will be prominently displayed at the Law School. It will remain as a permanent reminder of the Class of 2000.

Although the Winter Term tends to slow down a bit in terms of events and visitors at the school, this Term has been busy. Justice Louise Arbour gave the law faculty three hours of her

time and spoke informally and formally with faculty and students. Congratulations are due to first year law student Gerard Law who introduced Justice Arbour at the Human Rights Lecture. Gerard represented his faculty exceptionally well with a very sensitive introduction.

Other prominent visitors to the faculty were Professor Irwin Cotler who spoke of International Human Rights at the Alberta Law Review Dinner, and Professor Robert Young, who gave the annual McDonald Lecture in Constitutional Law. Earlier in the term former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Peter Cory visited the faculty.

This month also saw the Tevie Miller Teaching Excellence award presented to Professor David Percy. The ceremony and reception were well attended by faculty, students and friends and featured talks by Associate Chief Justice Wachowich, LSA VP Academic Vivek Warrier, and of course honouree David Percy. In addition to this reception, the law firm of Blake, Cassels and

Graydon hosted a reception at the school to inaugurate their new Blake's Scholars program. Two new \$5,000 a year student scholarships were created by the national law firm to recognize outstanding students at our faculty. In addition to these two new scholarships, a new \$5000 Leitch Entrance Scholarship has recently been established. The term social functions will end with the Faculty of Law's annual Third Year Farewell lunch on March 30.

We have been very busy this term with recruitment of new staff. As you know Carol Lawrence who has done a masterful job as Careers Placement Officer will be leaving at the end of April. In addition to a new Careers Placement Officer, we will also be hiring new tenure track faculty members, and a Director of Admissions. We will report more on these new positions and who will be filling them in our next column.

Good luck to you all. Have a great summer.



### Seeking Excellence

Achieving greatness takes dedication, determination and the drive that pushes you to go beyond. It is the defining moment where you stand alone.

Macleod Dixon is in continuous pursuit of this excellence - seeking individuals that will make a valuable contribution to our law firm.

Take the step toward Macleod Dixon.

**Macleod Dixon**  
Barristers & Solicitors

CALGARY • TORONTO • MOSCOW • ALMATY • CARACAS

www.macleoddixon.com

# STUDENT GROUPS

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Law Students' Association Update

by Sandro Marrocco, LSA President - Elect (2L) and Dave Benjestorf, LSA President (3L)

As outgoing VP Finance and incoming LSA President, I decided to write a year-end message to cover my thoughts of the year that has past and the year coming up.

As I explained at the extremely well-attended annual general meeting, for the most part we were very close to meeting the predictions of our budget from the beginning of the year. Notably, social spending was slightly higher than expected, but that was covered by higher-than-budgeted income on CANS sales and arcade revenue. A social economist I'm not, but I think there may be a correlation between arcade game use and the need to study from another student's CANS.

Speaking of studying, I hope everyone has some energy left after finals to make it to the end of the year party in May which will be well subsidized, especially for you departing 3L's. Also, keep your eyes out for a notice on when to return your swipe cards and get your deposits back for those of you leaving for good. This means that if you are in first or second year and plan on coming back here next year do not stand in line to get your deposit back.

I would also like to take up some space here to thank all of my fellow LSA execs for making my year a great one. At times they made my life a little more complicated (How am I supposed to know how much money we have left!) but for the most part it was truly a wonderful experience.

The LSA executive sacrificed many hours to organize events and provide services to LSA members asking only for a kind word and a sensual massage in return.

Many thanks to all the student groups I dealt with and to the wonderful people of the fourth floor, for all your patience.

As next year's president, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any suggestions that concerned students may have for next year. I have already been

approached with ideas such as setting up a safety committee to address security concerns within the building and many different suggestions on what to do with the couches. Feel free to approach me before the end of this year or contact me this summer with any other ideas you may have.

Feedback would also be appreciated regarding this year's events and what you did or did not like about them. We may also need extra students to help out with 1L orientation in September so if you are interested please notify me or one of the new LSA executive members. Their names are published in this issue of the Cannons so begin approaching them as they are both lonely and eager to please, if you know what I mean.

Good luck on finals and see you in September.

\*\*\*

### What do I get for my \$45 LSA fee?

After this year's elections, it has become evident that many students do not know what they get for their \$45 LSA member-

- Children's Christmas Party for all LSA members with families (\$10)
- the LSA pays the intramural fees (\$40-\$1000 per event)
- the orientation is paid for and organized by the LSA (i.e. the survival guide, icebreaker party, family BBQ, student group fair, etc....\$10 per first year student)
- security system for the Gavel and locker room (since its installation, theft and related problems have been significantly reduced or eliminated - \$3000)
- get free and unlimited access to the LSA computer lab (new computers, laser printer, scanner, etc... - \$3200)

- have access to the LSA fax machine at cost (savings of 50% -200% - \$600)
- Gavel space furnished with microwaves, computers, video games, a new fridge, and a new big screen television - \$2900 in new acquisitions)
- access to CANS/CODS (nearly \$2000 in new CANS/CODS this year)
- subsidized events such as Carbolec (subsidy of \$15 per member in attendance) and a Last Day of Exams party (normally \$10-15 subsidy for 3L's)

- Jeopardy Tournament
- Mustard Seed dinner (for inner city shelter - \$600)
- Misc. paints, posters, paper, supplies, etc... for student groups
- support for groups such as grad classes (i.e. \$500 donation to grad)
- organization for various events (i.e. FABS, curling, golf...)

In sum, most members, including those that don't attend social events, will receive a minimum of \$100-\$150 in direct value for their \$45 LSA fee. This

Continued on page 5

Trusted Legal Advisors to Alberta Business

McLENNAN ROSS  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

## McLENNAN ROSS - Barristers & Solicitors

McLennan Ross is committed to serving the legal needs of Alberta business. Founded over 80 years ago as Wallbridge & Cairns, McLennan Ross has grown today to more than 40 lawyers and an extensive support staff, with offices in Edmonton, Calgary and Yellowknife.

Find out more about the firm and articling student opportunities by visiting our website at [www.mross.com](http://www.mross.com).

600 West Chambers  
12220 Stony Plain Rd.  
Edmonton, AB T5N 3Y4  
Ph: (780)482-9200

1801 Altius Centre  
500 - 4th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 2V6  
Ph: (403)543-9120

802 Precambrian Building  
4920 - 52 Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3T1  
Ph: (867)873-5968



Dave B...A hands on President!

ship. As a result, I have prepared a partial list. Please note that these are approximate values and some acquisitions overlap from a previous year.

- a yearbook (\$17)
- a Who's Who directory (\$5)
- a locker (many at the U rent for \$40/semester)
- a free welcome back party (for beverages, hall, food, DJ and transport or \$15/person who attended)



LUCAS BOWKER & WHITE  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Serving Albertans for over 50 years

EDMONTON  
1201 Scotia 2 Tower, Scotia Place  
10060 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4E5  
Tel: (780) 426-5330 Fax: (780) 428-1066  
Tollfree: 1-800-567-7174

CALGARY  
Suite 3800, Bankers Hall  
855 - 2 Street S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 4J8  
Tel: (403) 218-1795  
Fax: 1-877-718-8902

WEB: [www.lbw.ab.ca](http://www.lbw.ab.ca) E-MAIL: [Lucas@lbw.ab.ca](mailto:Lucas@lbw.ab.ca)

"Skilled, Competent, Experienced"

That's how our clients refer to us. Because we offer our clients a full range of legal services, we can offer you a full range of articles.



Parlee McLaws  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

ESTABLISHED 1883

EDMONTON  
1500 Manulife Place  
10180 - 101 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4K1  
Phone: (780) 423-8500  
Fax: (780) 423-2870

CALGARY  
3400 Petro-Canada Centre  
150 - 6th Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3Y7  
Phone: (403) 294-7000  
Fax: (403) 265-8263

Email: [lwyers@parlee.com](mailto:lwyers@parlee.com)  
Website: [www.parlee.com](http://www.parlee.com)

# STUDENT GROUPS

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## LSA

Continued from page 4

is made possible by corporate donations, CANS/CODS sales, video game revenue, and other fundraising initiatives such as university grants. The LSA does not profit from any event that we organize. We operate on a cost or a loss basis as our goal is to provide value and service to our members. I hope this clarifies any confusion.

\*\*\*

### LSA Election Results:

#### President:

Sandro R. Marrocco

#### VP General:

Mikle Carter

#### VP Finance:

Chris McKay

#### VP External:

Chris Veale

#### VP Academic:

Dan Pichette

#### VP Social (3L):

Danielle Parrotta

#### VP Social (2L):

Carrie Steil

#### VP Services (3L):

Keith Reichert

#### VP Services (2L):

Debbie Sztatlyo

#### VP Sports:

Andrew Kay

#### Law Faculty Council:

Michelle Belland (2L)

Veronika Ferenc (2L)

Stacy Healy (3L)

Stella Varvis (3L)

#### Admissions Committee:

Stephanie Kwok (3L)

#### Alumni Relations & Community Development:

Bonnie Bokenfohr (3L)

Melissa Moulton (2L)

#### Curriculum Committee:

Helen Park (2L)

Nina Sharma (2L)

Bonnie Bokenfohr (3L)

Stacy Healy (3L)

#### Equality & Respect:

Tony Raoulis (2L)

Chris Wiebe (3L)

#### Perspectives Committee:

Nadine Arendt

Jo-Anne Chia

Stacey McCreath

Sandra Weber

#### Student Appeals Committee:

Sebastien Anderson

Stacey McCreath

Alternate: Bevin Worton

#### Visiting Speakers Committee:

Deana MacFayden

Debbie Sztatlyo

#### Executive of Alumni Affairs:

Cary Feng

#### Related to Alumni Affairs

#### Programme Committee:

Rebecca Cuthbertson

#### Communication Committee:

Christina Riddoch

#### Career Liaison Committee:

Nina Sharma

#### Fundraising Committee:

Craig Grubisich

## Alberta Law Review

by Marian Fluker (3L) and Larissa Katz-Lang (3L), Co-Editors in Chief

The incoming executive for 2000-2001 has been elected. The new co-editors-in-chief will be Anne Cote and Paul Eastwood. Kate Lobitz will be treasurer.

The annual Law Review Banquet was held at the Hotel MacDonald on March 7, 2000. The banquet is held to acknowledge those who have contributed to the Law Review during the past year and to honour the winners of the William Morrow essay contest.

The winners of the essay contest were:

#### General Category:

1st — Ayla Akgungor

2nd — Leah Teasdale

3rd — Jason Rohrick

#### Honourable Mention:

Harvey Steblyk

and Kate Clayton

#### Case Comments:

Ron Goltz

Congratulations to the winners. Thank you to all who entered; all entrants must be commended for the high caliber of writing.

The guest speaker for the banquet was Irwin Cotler, professor of law at McGill University, director of its human rights program, and chair of

the McGill-based International Human Rights Advocacy Centre. Professor Cotler has received five honorary doctorates, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his contribution to the cause of human rights, and was recently elected Member of Parliament for Mount Royal in Montreal. As an international human rights lawyer, he has served as Counsel to former prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union (Andrei Sakharov) and South Africa (Nelson Mandela). He currently serves as international legal counsel to imprisoned Russian environmentalist Aleksandr Nikitin and Nigerian playwright and Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka.

Professor Cotler gave an impassioned speech on the progress of human rights over the last 50 years. He emphasized the role we have in preserving the dignity and rights of others. The message he brought home to the appreciative audience was the dangers of indifference: those who are silent in the face of crimes against humanity thereby support and encourage the perpetrators as much as those who actively endorse the criminal behavior.

## Canadian Bar Association Year End

By Joe Sumiya (3L)

Well we are finally coming to the end of the year. What the hell happened to the time? For me it seems just like yesterday since I first walked through the doors of the law school as a new first year student. Now, with the help of both professors and fellow students, I am more confused and ignorant than ever. But I can say I have enjoyed my time as Chair of the U of A section of the CBA. My compliments to the hard work and dedication of our executive staff: Pam Vidal (2L), Alicia McTavish (2L), Sherina Dhala (2L), Amanda Viner (2L), Jeff Landman (2L), Paulette DeKelder (1L), and Krista Bennett (1L).

They have put in a lot of effort and have been a joy to work with. I have no doubt they will succeed as lawyers and in any other endeavors they may wish to take on.

I would also like to thank those who work at the CBA Head Office for all their help. Particularly, Heather Walsh and her assistant, Michelle Zatina. Thanks also to Kirk Lambrecht, Tom Atymichuk, Lucille Birkett, and to all the others at the North-east Alberta Office.

For the year 1999-2000, the Student section of the CBA has done some remarkable things. We introduced two new events that were very well attended and enjoyed. The "Wine

and Cheese Reception" at the beginning of the year allowed students to meet the CBA executives from both Head Office and the University, and learn more about the CBA. It is estimated that over 60 students attended.

The "Meet Your Mentor" Reception was even more popular. Over 120 lawyers and students enjoyed an evening designed to break the ice. By all accounts, the event was a roaring success, allowing students to meet their mentors in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

We had the honour of hosting some excellent speakers on campus this year. Our thanks to Professor O'Byrne, Eugene Graham, Charles Davidson, and

Julie Lloyd, for their participation.

Eugene, who is National President of the CBA, gave a delightful talk in February. He discussed the ethics and image of the legal profession, as well as lawyer jokes, and how the public perception of lawyers can be improved. He spoke about his pride in being a lawyer, and how we should feel proud also. He fur-

thermore outlined how he managed in his first year of law school to go from near the bottom of the class, to near the top. It was an excellent speech, my thanks to those who attended.

It has been a great year for us, and I hope you had a good year as well. If you did, good, if you didn't, don't worry, it will be over sooner than you think.



**WITTEN**

Barristers & Solicitors

Formerly Witten Binder • Wensel Nesbitt Reeson

2500 Canadian Western Bank Place  
10303 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3N6

Phone: (780) 428-0501

Fax: (780) 429-2559

E-mail: lawyers@wittenlaw.com

### Law Games 2000

Would like to thank the following sponsors for their support and generous contributions

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cruickshank Karvellas**

**Bryan & Company**

**Harry S. Campbell**

**Labatts**

**&**

**The U of A Faculty of Law**

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to you Law Games 2000 was a huge success!

# CLASS OF 2000

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Eagle Column: Valedictorian Address from Law Grad 2000

by Ayla Akgungor

For most of us, when we came to law school three years ago, it represented the beginning of a new chapter in our lives – a chapter filled with both challenges and triumphs.

As we pause to reflect on the past three years, it becomes readily apparent that there are many people who played significant roles in helping us reach this point in our lives. The unconditional love and support of our parents and families has given us strength and encouragement and will continue to sustain us in all of our future endeavors. Our spouses and significant others also deserve special mention. Whatever challenges that law school has presented for us, the students, it has undoubtedly also placed significant demands on our partners. Our partners have constantly endured our very conspicuous absences from any sort of social life during exam periods, kept a smile on their faces while listening to the fiftieth "law school story" at whatever law school event we happened to drag them to that night, and at many times, carried more than their share of the household tasks and errands. Despite all of this, they continued to encourage and support us and assured us that no matter what the outcome of our efforts, giving our best was al-

ways good enough for them.

I also want to recognize the constant efforts of our professors. Throughout the past three years, they have been our mentors, our teachers and our advisors. Their obvious commitment

to teaching and to the success of their students has enabled us all to reach our full potential. A very special thank-you goes out to those professors who were

brave enough to give out their home phone numbers in the weeks leading up to final exams.

While our families and our professors supported and encouraged us to the utmost of their abilities, in the end, it was us, as the students, who bore the ultimate burden of getting the job done. As law students, we have all put in countless hours of hard work – studying, writing papers and completing assignments. It has taken a tremendous amount of dedication and perseverance to get where we are today, and for that, we all deserve to be congratulated. Don't hesitate

school. Just as important as knowledge of black-letter law or an ability to interpret statutory sections are the people who sat beside us in the classroom and agonized over the same exams and assignments. Our friends have provided us with immeasurable love, support and encouragement.

We have drawn strength from our friends. Together, we have celebrated, laughed, and smiled. Together, we have shared

disappointments and weathered hardships. We have inspired and comforted one another, and I sincerely hope that we will continue to do so in the coming years.

Our friendships and our memories weave together to form the unique tapestry that is our law school experience. It is ours to treasure. As we prepare to leave the physical surroundings of law school, I urge you all to keep our community together and our friendships intact.

But as this chapter of our lives draws to a close, another chapter begins, that of our professional careers. There is no doubt that we have all chosen a very demanding profession, one that will

dreams. If we take the time to define our goals and pursue our passions from the outset, I am sure that we will all meet with a strong sense of achievement and a great deal of personal satisfaction from the practice of law. Remember that your law degree is only the tool – we are the craftspeople. Your law career can only be what you make of it.

I know that we will all bring our dedication and work

ethic to bear in our future law practices. The skills we have learned in law school will carry us far in the professional sphere. Having gone through the past three

years of law school with such an incredibly talented and accomplished group of people, I have no doubt that each and every one of us will meet with a great deal of success.

But, as we all go about making our marks on the world, I'd ask you to keep in mind that professional achievements are not the only indicators of success. One of our biggest challenges, being the driven and motivated individuals that we are, will be to maintain a sense of balance in our lives. Remember the importance of your family and friends



Class of 2000 Valedictorian, Ayla Akgungor.



A Law student's unconditional love and support.

As I draw my comments to a close tonight, I would like to quote from one of the world's most venerable authors. The following is an excerpt from a book by Dr. Seuss entitled "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know

what you know.

And YOU are the one who'll decide

where you go.

You'll look up and down streets.

Look'em over with care.

About some you will say, "I don't

choose to go there".

With your head full of brains and

your shoes full of feet,

you're too smart to go down any not-

so-good street.

Out there things can happen

and frequently do

to people as brainy

and footsy as you.

You won't lag behind, because you'll

have the speed.

You'll pass the whole gang and

you'll soon take the lead.

Wherever you fly, you'll be the best

of the best.

Wherever you go, you will top all the

rest.

Except when you don't.

Because sometimes you won't.

I'm sorry to say so

but, sadly, it's true

that Bang-ups

and Hang-ups

can happen to you.

But on you will go

though the weather be foul.

On you will go

though your enemies prowl.

Onward up many

a frightening creek,

though your arms may get sore

and your sneakers may leak.

On and on you will hike.

And I know you'll hike far

and face up to your problems

whatever they are.

So be sure when you step.

Step with great care and great tact

and remember that Life's

a Great Balancing Act.

Just never forget to be dexterous

and deft.

And never mix up your right foot

with your left.

And will you succeed?

Yes! You will, indeed!

(98 ½ percent guaranteed.)

YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

So...

be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or

Bray

or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,

you're off to Great Places!

Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting.

So...get on your way!

to take pride in the magnitude of your accomplishments.

It is difficult to encapsulate the identity of the diverse and wonderful people who make up the class of 2000. Together we have been club members, student group executives, moot team partners, law show performers, caseworkers, dayleaders, Cannons contributors and co-workers. Together we built a community – a community which allowed us to grow and to flourish, not only as law students, but also as human beings. Each of us has played a vital role in building our community and in making our law school experience a wonderful one.

Our law school experience is made up of many wonderful memories. Some of these memories stem from school events such as Law's a Beach, FABS, and the Carbolic Smoke Ball – Des Kary's portrayal of Rose in the first year Titanic video will forever be etched in our minds.

Front and center in the creation of these wonderful memories were our friends. While we all took different paths in getting to law school, we were brought together by a common pursuit. These shared goals formed the foundation from which cherished friendships grew. Our friendships are one of the most important things that we take away from law

require a lot of hard work and present many of its own challenges. As we make the transition from law students to contributing members of the legal profession, I urge you to be passionate about the things you believe in. Take a stand when called upon to do so. Don't be afraid to seek out and follow your

and the simpler pleasures that life has to offer. Take stock every once in a while and make sure your life is following a path that provides you with both personal fulfillment and professional satisfaction. True success can only be achieved if both these elements are present.



Strength drawn from family and friends.

# CLASS OF 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## Professor O'Byrne on Rookie Errors, Professionalism and Listening to Your Mom

by Professor Shannon O'Byrne

Thank you for the kind introduction and a special thanks to Jane and Pat for helping me get through this very nerve wracking experience. I'm not a stand up comedian, I'm a law professor. The idea of having to give a speech that is supposed to be funny has been weighing on me all week. And then yesterday, I had the thought — don't try to be someone different than you are, go with what you know.

On that basis, I'm going to use this time to hold my long over due make up class for Contracts. Yes, the course was over in 1998 but I'm the one who marked your final exams. Believe me, you could use this make up. There's lots of stuff we could cover.

Doing a make up class right now also presents me with a unique kind of honour all on its own. It would be the first time that Jason Rohrick would be in attendance from the very beginning of a lecture. Jason, as you know, tends to be late.

But we all make mistakes and have imperfections, that's for sure. Seeing you all here tonight

immediately brings to mind the rookie errors each and every one of you made in law school. Let me share some vignettes with you and your families.

Individual Rookie Awards go to:

Chopper, for quoting from a Simpson's episode in answer to a question posed during moot court.

John Piasta, for punishing his cans and shutting it down.

Rick Nielsen, two weeks into law school, for telling me what his high school teacher had taught him about offer and invitation to treat.

Zena, the Princess Warrior, for giving a Valentine to Professor Renke

Don Goyan, the man of many nicknames, for concealing his past as a line dance instructor. This is unacceptable.

Katy Stewart, for ever thinking that she could make it into the Law Show.

John McDonnell, for having a suspiciously detailed knowledge of how to make the drug combination, known in the case law, as a speed ball.

Pat Heinsen, for dressing like Jacques Cousteau — right down to the turtle neck sweater — at a rugby banquet.

Janey, for taking up smoking in the ladies washroom.

Lyle Brooks and Des Kary, for looking like identical twins.

Benjie, for working as an intern for a North Dakota Senator. Internships in the United States can hurt your reputation.

Brad Mustard, for having a last name that Professor Hopp could always remember in Contracts class.

Larissa, for thinking that case law should make sense. Then again, she's articling to the Supreme Court of Canada so maybe she's on to something.

But is not just people like Larissa, Benjie and Brad who make rookie errors. I've seen entire classes fall into the trap. For this reason, I would like to announce the following group winners:

Professor Litman's Property Law class gets an award for losing it entirely during the prop-

erty law final. It seems that Moe had asked the following question, worth 10 marks: "Can you have a life estate in a dead chicken?"

Only Des Kary kept it together. His answer — an unqualified yes. A life estate in a dead chicken, he observed, is not only possible, it has a name. It is called an *estate pour autre poulet*.

Other rookie errors involving crowds:

My entire first year Contracts class, for being too stunned to say anything when Professor Hopp mistakenly came into the class room and started teaching them Wills and Estates. It was only when I arrived that things got cleared up.

Professor Robertson's entire Torts class, for thinking that it would be Professor Robertson's children who would be marking their mid-terms when, in fact, it would be the family dog.

All of you get a rookie awards for chanting "We are 2000" at orientation just because Steve Blackman told you to.

All of you get a rookie

award for the photos you submitted of yourselves to the admissions office in first year. These pictures remain on your permanent record.

And all of you get a rookie award for eating the free donuts provided at Perspectives. These donuts are used and unsanitary.

But don't feel bad, least of all on graduation. Everyone makes rookie errors, even Associate Chief Justice Wachowich, your Keynote speaker. With his Lordship's permission, I would like to share one with you now.

Justice Wachowich, just freshly appointed, was hearing his first criminal case. He found the defendant guilty. Instead of asking the defendant if he had anything to say prior to sentence being pronounced, Justice Wachowich got right to business and sentenced the defendant to four years in the penitentiary. Then and only then did he have the defendant if he had anything to say.

With nothing seemingly to lose at this point, the defendant

Continued page 11

## Survey Says.....Results of the Cannons Class of 2000 Survey

Who in your class is / will be ....

- (1) ... the first to be called to the bench?  
Larissa Katz-Lang  
Ayla Akgungor  
Alexis Moulton
- (2) ...the first to have a billboard advertisement?  
Karen Verschagin  
Rick Nielsen  
Pat Heinsen
- (3) ...the next John Grisham?  
Christine Mazur  
Vivek Warrier  
Dion Legge
- (4) ...the first to return to the U of A as a prof?  
Larissa Katz-Lang  
Jason Rohrick  
Debi Picowye
- (5) ...the first to leave law for politics?  
Meaghan Conroy  
Dave Benjestorf  
Lori Golberg
- (6) ...the first to be disbarred?  
Dion Legge, Elaine Anderson and Christine Mazur for having a sense of humor!
- (7) ...the first to argue before the Supreme Court of Canada?  
Lauren Zaychuk  
Jon Hillson  
Alexis Moulton and Glen Taylor
- (8) ...the first to return as an advising lawyer for SLS?  
Hayden Ebbem  
Lauren Zaychuk  
Erin McCoy
- (9) ...the biggest supporter(s)

- of Allan Rock's medical marijuana initiative?  
Pat Flynn  
Meaghan Conroy  
Christine Mazur
- (10) ...male fashion plate of the year?  
Shad Chapman  
Vivek Warrier  
Jimmy Dimovski
- (11) ...female fashion plate of the year?  
Jane Steblecki  
Stefania Valle  
Lori Golberg
- (12) ...the student(s) with the most frequently changing hairstyle?  
Michelle MacKay  
Shauna Lucyshyn  
Steve Ring
- (13) ...the student(s) who have had the most conversations with profs in class?  
Joe Sumiya  
Lyle Brooks  
Jon Hillson
- (14) ...the most anonymous student(s)?  
That guy in the library, who always sits with that girl!
- (15) ...the student(s) most often in the library?  
Chad Brown  
John Piasta  
Pat Miranda
- (16) ...the student(s) with the most athletic prowess?  
Cheryl Trepanier  
Lyle Brooks  
Ryan Smith
- (17) ...the biggest consumer of coffee in the last three years?

- Todd Wytrychowski  
Lyle Brooks  
Jaxine Oltean
- (18) ...the student(s) who nap the most in class?  
Galina Melamed - HANDS DOWN
- (19) ...the students who do the best prof imitations?  
Justin Matthews  
Andy Spence  
Pat Heinsen
- (20) ...the champion beer consumer in the last three years?  
Steve Ring  
Dave Benjestorf  
James Dunda
- (21) ...has hosted the wildest law school party?  
Kyla Sandwith
- (22) ...missed the most classes?  
Mike Vollman  
Carla Lloyd  
Todd Wytrychowski
- (23) ...the student(s) who was/were late for the most classes in three years?  
Jason Rohrick  
Tanya Martin
- (24) ...the student(s) with the biggest bank of trivial knowledge?  
Ken Reh  
Jon Hillson  
Harvey Steblyk
- (25) ...the student(s) who has/have become the most cynical after three years of law school?  
John Piasta  
Dion Legge  
Kirk Beler
- (26) ...the student(s) who has/

- have remained the most idealistic after three years of law school?  
Jane Steblecki  
Sarah Heynen  
Rosie Zanin
- (27) ...the most laid back and easy going student(s)?  
Mike Vollman  
Brad Mustard  
Harvey Steblyk
- (28) ...the male student(s) with the biggest ego?  
Dave Karp  
Todd Wytrychowski  
Bela Berze
- (29) ...the female student(s) with the biggest ego?  
Tina Huizanga  
Kyla Sandwith
- (30) ...Mr. Congeniality?  
Joe Sumiya  
Chad Brown  
Pat Miranda and Don Goyan
- (31) ...Ms. Congeniality?  
Jane Steblecki  
Melissa Timbres  
Sharisse Barboza, Erin McCoy and Jaxine Oltean
- (32) What was the best law school event of the year?  
GRAD  
LAST EXAM
- (33) ...the person who has dated the most law students?  
Rosie Zanin
- (34) ...the hardest working law student?  
Michelle MacKay  
Larissa Katz-Lang
- (35) ...the student with the most rage?  
Dion Legge
- (36) ...the student with the best

- sarcastic comments?  
Dave Wedge  
Sharisse Barboza
- (37) ...the first person to be arrested for hugging a tree during a protest?  
Andrew Bacheldar
- (38) ...the first person to be quoted in a Supreme Court decision?  
Larissa Katz-Lang
- (39) ...most likely to retire from law and become a rock and roll musician?  
Chad Brown  
Geoff Hope
- (40) ...the funniest student(s)?  
Katy Stewart  
Sharisse Barboza
- (41) ...the video game star?  
Glen Taylor  
John Mamer
- (42) ...has spent the most money on video games?  
John Piasta
- (43) ...the hairiest student(s)?  
Pat Heinsen  
Don Goyan  
Brad Mustard  
Des Kary
- (44) ...has asked the most intelligent questions in class?  
Jon Hillson  
Debi Picowye
- (45) ...the person with the nicest things to say?  
Jane Steblecki
- (46) ...most likely to be paid in agricultural products or livestock?  
Elaine Anderson

# SPECIAL FEATURE

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Focus on Poverty: Student Legal Services Caseworkers Investigate the Legal Needs of the Low-Income Community

### The Boyle Street Co-Op

by Andrea Klaiber (2L)

The Boyle Street Co-op is a volunteer-run inner-city drop-in center that offers numerous services including an adult literacy center, a mental health bicycle repair shop, and an alternative high school for youths whose needs are not met by regularly scheduled high schools. Andrea spoke with Michael Cairns, the Co-op's executive director.

*What are the most prevalent legal needs for the low-income community as they are represented here?*

Some of the charges that the clients here are faced with are anything from mischief charges to assault. Often times it is a question of just reassuring people and explaining to people what the process is and when they have to go to court and what it all means.

The other thing is that SLS involvement gives a face to the judiciary system which normally doesn't seem to be there - in other words, you can talk to the young students who are going to be lawyers, and it actually gives you a sense that the judicial system actually does care for people who are in the low income brackets and who can't actually afford lawyers.

*What sort of civil law issues are there?*

Landlord and tenant issues are just incredible and there is a lot of work to be done in the area of family court issues, child welfare issues and administrative appeals. People tend to use the outreach workers. When their AISH isn't granted and they want to appeal the process they'll tend to go to an outreach worker simply because the outreach workers are there every day, you can find them based on your schedule rather than on someone else's schedule. A lot of the outreach workers tend to see CPP issues and stuff like that. I think that it would be really interesting if SLS actually worked with some of the outreach workers explaining how to do administrative appeals better.

*Regarding criminal law, do you think that some form of written instruction regarding the process of going to court would be useful?*

I think that would be a good idea - what we end up doing is specializing the outreach ser-

vice so that often times when it comes to court, we have Robert [an outreach worker] who does a lot of walking to court, and even if the client says "I really don't want you to be there," Robert will somehow show up at the court while it is happening just to observe and to watch what is going on and to make sure that people will follow up. The biggest difficulty we have is that the clients don't follow up, or they follow up an hour before they are actually walking into the courtroom.

A problem is that some clients "can't piece it all together," and sometimes they have an attitude that "the judge will see that I am stupid" which attitude doesn't always work in favour of the client. Often they make use of Elizabeth Fry services.

Apart from Elizabeth Fry and outreach workers, Legal Aid is another service that provides legal services to the Boyle Street Community, though it is sometimes problematic: you have to get there by eight in the morning and be one of the first ten people up the elevator, and if you are not then you are not going to be seen by anyone. Often the times when we have encountered difficulties is when the outreach worker is working with a client who actually has a lawyer who then has to request Legal Aid - and they find that the process is fairly stiff to get through.

*What about the justice system in general - do you have any sense for whether or not people have a lot of respect for it, or whether that is really waning - and if it is really waning, what sort of ways can that be improved?*

I don't know what the general feeling is, but it would be interesting to hold an "in-service" and find out. Capital Health recently did a similar project to evaluate the area of health services. They hired an evaluation firm, which came to the Boyle Street Co-op with a high-tech presentation. The person that they hired was very good at re-framing the stuff people said - like, for example "Nobody gives a shit about us anyways," would translate as "you are feeling that you are not recognized by the judiciary."

Often times, most of the issues are very subsistence related - how do I get food, how do I pay my rent, can my landlord really kick me out? I don't think

that is going to change.

From an administrative perspective, we have a number of people who do community hours here. We have a number of youths who have different charges, and I am finding that I would really like the Solicitor General to pay for a few of the programs that they are actually getting for scot-free. However, the Solicitor General has different ideas about that.

One way in which legal services, and in particular SLS Legal Ed and Reform can be improved for clients at the Boyle Street Co-op, is setting up a course on how the legal system works. It could be taught to the students in the Charter School that Boyle runs out of its basement. The course could teach rules, like how to present yourself in court, what are the things that happen, what are the differences between the different levels of charges, what do they mean.

The course could take place during SLS shifts. The law students could actually go down and talk to the kids to give them some sense of what the judiciary system is all about. Often times they really don't have that connection - the judiciary system is basically the policeman, the remand centre, and then you go to court.

I think that there are all kinds of ways, events and opportunities that you can create for yourself to give the next generation of what is essentially an aboriginal people living in poverty into some different understanding of what the judiciary does. However, a presentation based on a white middle class ... this is the law, and these are policemen and policemen are your friends - scenario, might not be appropriate. Their whole experience is different.

In exchange for teaching the Charter School students about the legal system, another suggestion is for the students to teach the SLS workers something about the reality of their social atmosphere. It depends on how much time the students have to establish a relationship, but if you really want to understand gangs and how they work...it is a continuous issue for us. But at least it gives you a sense of what the factors involved are. There are all sorts of understandings that can be traded back and forth.

### The Bissell Centre

by Helen Yoon (2L)

The Bissell Centre offers numerous services and programs to members of the inner-city community including a Casual Labour office, Child Care, emergency food and clothing, family support, and a drop-in center. Helen spoke with Gabe Viveiros, one of the Centre's directors.

*What are the typical legal issues, problems of the low-income community, specifically Bissell clients?*

Small petty crime, not showing up to court, assault, needing help with failure to appear, going to jail because of a warrant, child welfare. If they don't have a lawyer, we'll go with them and talk to duty council, or talk to the crown, or support people in their trial.

*Do you find that your clients are aware of the services that are out there? Do they know about legal aid?*

Yeah, a lot of them are really good, they know about duty council, about legal aid, SLS. They know about what to do in court, they know how to appear, they know how to postpone court dates if they are getting a trial carried over, getting into treatment or they're out of town.

What they have a problem with is a lot of our clients have a brain injury, FAS [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome], or problems with addiction, so they have a problem with time, and the court is always on time. So a lot of them are late for court, or they don't show up on the right date. That's not because they're ignorant, it's because our clients can't wait or they can't tell time because of FAS or their brain injury. A lot of our clients, due to their addictions, don't show up. It's not out of intent, it's out of addiction or injury, that's a big issue.

*That's really interesting because the courts are not accommodating to that.*

No, actually some of the judges aren't bad at docket court. Some of the judges are pretty understanding. It's the crown - there's no value in sending someone to jail for a \$100 ticket, or intoxication in public.

Some judges won't send them to jail. They'll do probation, they'll do anything, such as extending time to pay.

*What services are in place*

*to meet these needs and how effective are they?*

Besides SLS and Legal Aid there isn't much. For accidents and civil claims, those are things easy to get a lawyer because they get a percentage of it.

*For those clients that have FAS and problems like that, do they have any sort of advocate in any community groups that will help them go through the legal system?*

I think we've accessed Victim Services in the past. VS will actually sit down with someone in a court room and prepare them for it. Really it's just SLS and Legal Aid. I know that there's talk about getting a Legal clinic. There's one in Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary, where you can go in and get legal assistance at a flat rate or be charged a minimal amount.

*Do you feel that SLS and Legal Aid are effective?*

I don't know if they're effective, I think they're hard to access and it's limited. You have to show up in person, first come first serve, and certain things aren't covered by legal aid.

*And certain things aren't covered by SLS.*

Yeah, so a lot of times things like small petty crime don't get covered, minor assaults, like hitting someone over the head. You could go to court and yet it's hard to get a lawyer for it. It's not that it's not there. There just isn't enough of it available.

*What areas can be improved, what can the community law firms do to help?*

I think it would be nice to have child welfare lawyers. Child welfare is a big court problem here. A lot of our clients have child welfare issues, temporary guardianship. The big issue is that there are so many of those cases and it's hard to get help a lot of the time. I don't think Legal Aid is enough for that right now.

The problem is that child welfare goes to court almost every week. For clients of ours, we've gone instead and said postpone it, wait till he gets a lawyer, legal aid. For a lot of people, it's

*Continued on page 9*

# SPECIAL FEATURE

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## Bissell Centre

Continued from page 9

not easy to make them go through the ropes and that's a big issue. A lot of our clients struggle with it. You have to go to court almost every day. Instead of going to court, it'd be nice to have an option somewhere in between.

Just to wait a couple of hours in the courthouse is a big deal and it's an intimidating building, it's meant to intimidate, it's the law. It should be easier to access.

Same thing with the landlord tenant issue, you don't have any lawyers to help with that and the Landlord Tenant Board is basically on the side of the landlords. It's more geared to the owner; it's always been that way. It is difficult to understand the language for the Residential Tenancies Act.

Another problem is with the police, because among the issues people don't always understand is the reason why they're being arrested. The language of some of the charges is difficult to understand. Duty council is pretty good I must admit, they're pretty helpful.

*You've commented on what the justice system needs already in terms of this group, but do you have any additional comments on how needs are met or are not met by the justice system?*

We tend to incarcerate mentally disabled people, physically disabled, and people with addiction problems. For example, we had a client the other year who went to federal prison for an

assault and the problem was that the person was mentally ill and there's no treatment. The sad part was that the judge was saying that what was a health issue became a criminal matter for him and this individual ended up being incarcerated. The community support wasn't there and the justice system was not equipped to deal with a health issue; the judge was reflecting his despair of with having to deal with a health issue.

We'll often go to docket; a lot of our clients will have addiction problems, alcohol related, a lot of them are lifestyle issues, small petty crimes, like stealing or shoplifting. Docket court, provincial matters are full of that, charged with aggravated assault again, addiction was the issue and mental health, and things got out of control, violence was involved, spousal abuse was involved. It just seems that if you don't deal with it in the community, the justice system has to deal with it and it is not equipped. All the court trials that I've gone to, the judges have to deal with cases that should have been dealt with before by healthcare and welfare.

*In your view, for people with lifestyle problems, social issues and mental health issues, would you suggest that there needs to be more accommodation within the community in terms of social institutions or do you think the justice system itself should*

*make more efforts towards accommodating that?*

I think it would be unfair to ask the justice system or the courts to deal with a social issue, all that it can do is deal with the consequences to behavior. What it's equipped to do, is find guilt.

I think the problem is this, if poor people are going to jail,

present as normal, and present as very capable except when they get stressed out. They may become aggressive, physically, verbally abusive and they go to jail in a vicious cycle.

Some of the people go to jail for the same thing over and over again and the judge is not equipped to provide treatment provincially and even federally. I think there's only one psychiatric prison in Saskatoon. Provincially there's nothing. A lot of people are just warehoused. I don't think we can ask the court system to deal with social issues. To deal with them after the fact is sort of asinine.

*Since the Courts are more reactionary, you're saying that the community and Legislature need to fill in the gaps of social problems?*

I think we know that prisons aren't really rehabilitative, they're for warehousing. If you have money you probably won't go to jail. A lot of guys end up in jail because they have no money. There's no value in warehousing a lot of our guys in remand, a lot of them go to jail strictly because they can't afford to pay the fines, \$100 fine is like \$1000 to me. That's a big issue, I think for the small stuff the judges are stuck, and you see that in court everyday. I think that the struggle is what can we ask of the court system. We can't ask much more than what it is, it's basically a

gatekeeper for society.

At this point in the interview, Gabe tells a story of man who was sentenced and all the judge could say was that he could make a recommendation that the man be a high priority candidate for the psychiatric prison. However, chances were that he wouldn't get a chance to get into a psychiatric prison until the end of his jail term during parole at 2/3 time. The result was that they put a man with a severe mental illness, a chronic mental problem into the federal prison system where he could get killed. For example, would this person survive 2 years in a regular penitentiary, with the list so high to get into a psychiatric unit? The judge said it was likely he wouldn't get in. It was sad, and both the Crown and defense were saying "what can we do," but it was 6 years for aggravated assault, a federal offense.

*Do Aboriginal people get discriminated against in the court system?*

These are social, not legal issues. For example, among solvent users, most users aren't white. It is peculiar that this drug is so heavily entrenched in the aboriginal community - it's a poverty drug right? The courts are full of aboriginals, but with a white crown, white lawyer and white judge, you would think that we would have a proportion of native judges and native lawyers, but there aren't really.

## DECSA OUTREACH (Distinctive Employment Counseling Services of Alberta)

by Stacy Paul Healy (2L)

Stacy had the opportunity to speak with DECSA's Program Manager, Darrel Regehr, who provided the following eye-opening information:

### What Is DECSA?

DECSA is a community based, non-profit organization that provides employment preparation, vocational counseling and placement services to people unable to find employment through traditional means. While DECSA's mandate focuses on employment related services such as career counseling, employment and educational placement, and access to resources, DECSA also tries to address some of the underlying causes of problems facing its clients, such as physical or mental disabilities, lack of education or skills, domestic violence, etc.

DECSA does this either by providing the necessary services itself (i.e. skills training, education) or by establishing relationships and partnerships with outside agencies, including SLS. Each individual in the program is assigned to a case manager who provides one-on-one assistance and support.

### What Role Does SLS Play?

The main role of SLS is to provide information for these individuals. The legal issues they face are connected with employment and other personal issues. For example, an individual may be charged with a serious driving offence, resulting in suspension of their license, yet they need a driver's license for a job they recently got. They may not know what options they have regarding

the suspension. Other cases may involve a former spouse or partner who continues to harass the individual at various places. After getting a restraining order, the person might not be clear on the terms of the order, or what happens if it is breached. SLS can provide this type of information.

Another important aspect of SLS's role is to help persuade the individual to seek legal advice or representation through Legal Aid or a lawyer for issues that we do not handle. Sometimes a case manager will recommend that the client see a lawyer, but the individual will not follow through until they hear the same thing from someone with some legal background.

Thirdly, SLS caseworkers can act as a voice for these individuals in their dealings with the legal system. We all know how

intimidating and frustrating going to court can be, let alone for individuals who have difficulty expressing themselves and representing their interests in the first place.

### What Are Some of the Common Difficulties Facing these Individuals?

One common problem for these individuals is getting access to legal information right away. Many of the individuals do not have the time to wait in line for Legal Aid. If what they need are answers to some questions and some information, they can often get it much quicker (and cheaper) through us than through Legal Aid. We can also help break down the issues they face and identify ones that we can assist them with and ones that they will need to see a lawyer about.

One of the most common difficulties is the complexity and multiplicity of issues that these individuals face. For example, a person might have several creditors trying to collect on debts leading to bankruptcy. At the same time the person may have recently escaped from an abusive domestic relationship, but is now involved in a custody dispute with a former spouse or partner who is using the child as leverage over the individual and continually harassing them. Furthermore, the individual may have a criminal record and a lack of education. Thus the individual is trying to deal with civil, family, and criminal law issues all at once. Additionally, these various issues affect one another. The

Continued on page 10

# SPECIAL FEATURE

*The Law Students Newspaper*

## Law Students Association Community Outreach

### The Mustard Seed Church: The Heart of a City

by Deborah Szatylo (1L)

The Mustard Seed Church, located at 10635-96 Street in Edmonton's inner city, serves the residents of the area in a host of ways. Pastor Clendenning indicates, "the Mustard Seed provides social gospel and serves as a contact point in the community." The staff works together with other support agencies in the area to help meet the diverse needs of the population. The LSA approved spending \$564 when 20 law students attended the Mustard Seed to prepare and serve supper to over 300 area residents on Sunday March 5th.

The Mustard Seed Church was built in 1909 as a German Baptist Church. Danny Hooper singer/real-estate agent transformed the Church into a country and western club in 1973. In 1988 the Church was repurchased by the Baptist's who have rented it to Mustard Seed for a nominal fee ever since. There is a Mustard Seed organization in Victoria as well as Calgary.

The Mustard Seed holds services every Sunday afternoon and functions as a community drop-in center. During the week, homemade soup is served daily. Evening meals, Thursday through Sunday, are provided mainly during the winter months when they are needed most. The Church acts as a Food Bank depot, a Clothing Bank and hosts video night on Fridays and Hockey Night in Canada on Saturday evenings utilizing a donated 61-inch television.

The Mustard Seed Church is operated solely on donations.

One of their best fund-raisers is the annual "Meet the Street" event. The people that participate seek pledges and then attempt to spend the night from 7 pm - 5 am walking the streets of the inner city with only \$3 in their pocket, touring the variety of agencies under the watchful eye of the Edmonton Police Service. Various churches and other community groups volunteer money and their time to serve the meals on Sunday evenings. Pastor Clendenning hopes these activities "will build bridges with the community and allay some of their fears about the inner city".

The clients of the Mustard Seed are of many ethnic origins. Many are single males, however, there are many single women with children as well. Most stay

gious services and integration opportunities. The Church also contributes through their cooperative relationship with surrounding support agencies, the Edmonton Police Service and the Parole Board.

Many clients have occasion to experience a range of legal issues, including child welfare and landlord-tenant problems. Most are turned away from Legal Aid. Many either do not know their rights or how to access agencies and information that may be able to assist them. In response to the need identified by staff member Sean Oliver, Student Legal Services has recently approved participation with the Mustard Seed Church. SLS weekly participation at the nearby Bissell Center will be advertised, information pamphlets will be made available, and SLS will be added to the Mustard Seed agency referral list.

Mr. Oliver indicates many Mustard Seed clients require legal representation and appreciates the SLS offer of involvement. He also indicates that there is a need for more lawyers willing to do *pro bono* work.

The Sunday dinner was the LSA's first involvement with the Mustard Seed Church. Many thanks go out to Tara Shaw who organized the event and to those



*Law Students serve dinner at the Mustard Seed*

who participated in the preparation and delivery of the meal. Aside from this writer: Deana M., Dion L., Alexis M., Sharisse B., Melissa M., Mikle C., Tamar E., Carrie S., Keith R., Paul L., Chau N., Sandro M., Christine M., Deepa A., Sarah D., Jo-Anne C., Benjamin E., Alison M., and James M. all participated. All reported that this was a very rewarding event. Many stated they

gained a new perspective of life's difficulties, had a lot of fun giving back to the community, and expressed that this is a worthy event for L.S.A. involvement every year.

There is a lot to be gained from law student involvement in such endeavours both by the individual participants and by the community.



*Future lawyers loose in the kitchen*

at rooming houses, shelters and group homes in the area. Their age ranges from 16-80 years. Some are addicts or suffer from a variety of medical problems. A few are attempting reintegration into the community after incarceration. The Mustard Seed helps out by working with the Edmonton Community Correctional Chaplaincy and the nearby Grierson Center to provide reli-

## DECSA OUTREACH

*Continued from page 9*

criminal record and lack of financial stability can affect the child custody issue, and the past abuse and present manipulation by the estranged partner may be 'invisible' to the court because of a lack of documentation.

Another related problem is that the individual may feel overwhelmed and helpless, thus causing emotional distress. For many of these individuals, their previous experiences with the legal system have been negative ones leading to a "the courts or police won't help me" type attitude. Added to this is a lack of understanding and familiarity with the legal procedures and legal jargon. Thus SLS is of great service in helping these individuals to understand and interpret legal documents and procedures.

### *Directions for the Future*

As the situation now stands, SLS is limited in the areas in which it can represent individuals, especially in the family law area. At the same time, since Family Courts Services says that a lawyer is not necessary for Family Court issues, Legal Aid will not provide a lawyer for issues that go before Family Court. This leaves individuals in a situation where they have to hire a lawyer (which they typically cannot afford) or they have to represent themselves. Thus while the legal community is to be commended for the *pro bono* work it does, something more substantial

needs to be done so that people in these types of situations can rely on being able to get legal assistance. This is especially important because this part of the population is typically in need of greater support from the community, not less.

Another needed improvement is the management of abusive situations. The current approach focuses only on one half of the situation. It cannot be forgotten that the other side in the equation is the abuser. Programs like DECSA are necessary and very beneficial for the victims of abuse, however, failing to deal with the abuser only ensures that there will continue to be abusive situations. Programs for the abuser would make the scope of these programs more complete and effective.

### *Conclusion*

Programs such as the ones at DECSA are both important and necessary to ensure that all parts of the population are equal (or at least less unequal) before the law. The partnership between DECSA and SLS is a benefit to both organizations. Hopefully partnerships like these will be recognized for their value and may someday lead to more extensive and permanent partnerships between members of the legal and other professional communities and the disadvantaged members of our community.



*A happy, tired group relaxes after clean-up*

# OBITER DICTA

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## Legal Beagle Column The Year in Review

By Dennis Schmidt (2L)

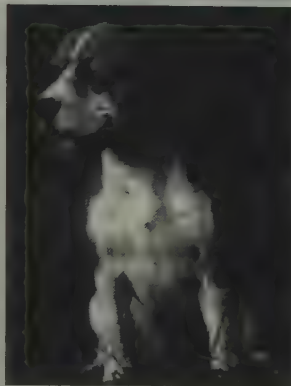
Well, here it is folks!! The last issue for the year. The transition from Beagles (Bow-wow: who thought up this name for our class??) to Eagles (I can't think of a way to spell out the sound that eagles make!) will be complete once we make it through exams. Good luck to all on that.

As for the past year, a lot has happened; much of which we are unable to reproduce due to the graphic and explicit nature of the debauchery that has unfolded. That aside, we have seen a lot occur this past year. For example, the evolution of the first years from shy and scared newborns, into out-going and fearless toddlers. We saw the death of our beloved television in the Gavel, only to be replaced by an outstanding piece of visual technology that we currently idolize and enjoy (Is this a good enough retraction Benji??).

From our exhausting experience at Career Day, to the history making (is it really?) resolution passed by the Law Society's Benchers. We saw the Couches become even more disgusting. We had fever, but finer

quality FABs. With regards to that, the last FAB of the year proved to be the most successful, and enjoyable of the year. Wacko Jacko kicked ass as usual and fun was had by all including the many guests of other Faculties. What, oh pray tell, what will we do next year without Wacko Jacko? Will they disband? Will they go on to successful solo projects? Or will they sign with a major and put out a number one selling debut? I guess we'll have to find out next year.

This year also saw another successful and intoxicating Car-bolic Smoke Ball. As usual, everyone was in fine form dressed to the nines, taking pictures, eating fine food, drinking fine wine, and dancing until they sweated Andrew Kay-style. We also saw the congregation of over 140 law students at an out of Faculty function that they actually had to pay for. I'm referring here to the Battle of Alberta hockey game that a vast majority of us attended this past March. We all came with our favorites and perhaps many of us left disappointed with the result (I know I did!). A nod goes to Dave for organizing such



a daunting and I'd imagine painstaking event (I'm sure he had to break some legs to get some of you to pay. Just kidding of course!!).

The painting of our library walls from 70's green and yellow to a lovely Malibu white. It's a good thing™. We also saw the transformation of the Gavel into an arcade. Now, when are going to get a tokens dispenser!! The cleaning of the microwaves. Another nail-biting edition of Law School Jeopardy.

I could go on and mention other events and highlights of the year, but as I mentioned above, many of these involved the sort of things that end up as headlines on Hardcopy or the National Enquirer, so I'll leave those to your memories or imaginations. Anyway, good luck to my fellow 2Ls on your articling interviews and see you next year. I hope.

## Professor O'Byrne

Continued from Page 7

shared his thoughts. He strung together an impressive string of obscenities to convey the depth of what he regarded to be Justice Wachowich's incompetence. His Lordship could have increased the sentence as a result of this contempt of court but instead said, in reply to the unflattering description he had just received of himself: "That, sir, was just a lucky guess."

Which brings me to my last theme, that of humour and professionalism. Please don't get too uptight as lawyers. Show your colleagues some professional courtesy. Cut people some slack. The best thing is that none of this takes any specialized training. All you have to do is apply what is known as the Mom test. Before you say or do something that is coming close to the line, ask yourself, "What would my Mom say if I did that." You just can't go wrong. If, on occa-

sion, you have trouble applying the test alone, go directly to the source. Phone your mom and ask her.

I have high hopes for this class and having met several of the moms here tonight, I am even more fortified. This is a class which, from the very beginning, has also shown high regard for each other, supported those who fell ill, who suffered tragic losses, and had to face other tremendously difficult personal challenges. You are already conducting yourselves as colleagues and professionals.

Since this is a make up class, I should use at least one Latin phrase:

*Non quod facti, enos quo moto.  
Its not just what we do but how  
we do it*

Thank you for making me your class professor.

**PIZZA LUNCH** for contributors on Wednesday, April 5 at noon in the Cannons office. RSVP to [cmazur@ualberta.ca](mailto:cmazur@ualberta.ca) ASAP.

This is your last chance for 'za' this year, so make sure to be there.

## MATHEWS, DINSDALE & CLARK LLP

Would like to thank the following boards of arbitration, students and law schools who contributed to the enormous success of our **SECOND ANNUAL LABOUR ARBITRATION COMPETITION** held at the Federal Court Building in Toronto on January 21-23, 2000

Ms. Gail Brent

Mr. Rick MacDowell

Mr. Richard Verity

Mr. Mark Wright

Ms. Jane Devlin

Ms. Elizabeth McIntyre

Mr. Stephen Wahl

Mr. Justice Stephen Goudge

Ms. Paul Lordon

Ms. Marilyn Nairn

Mr. Douglas Wray

A special thank you to the students who represented the following law schools:

University of Alberta

Osgoode Hall Law School

University of Western Ontario

Dalhousie University

University of Ottawa

University of Windsor

McGill University

Queen's University

Finally, we would like to congratulate the members of the winning team, representing the University of Ottawa, **Genevieve Debane** and **Trisha Gain**, and the second place team representing the University of Alberta, **Bonnie Bokenfohr** and **Sebastien Anderson**.

# OBITER DICTA

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Interview with Professor David R. Percy, Q.C.

### Winner of the Tevie H. Miller Award for Teaching Excellence

By Grant A. Brown, D.Phil. (IL)

This year's Tevie H. Miller Award for Teaching Excellence went to Professor David R. Percy, Q.C., who generously agreed to the following interview.

*What does the Tevie H. Miller award for teaching excellence mean to you?*

Teaching is an odd profession: it looks very public, because law professors talk to a lot of students, but in reality it's quite private, as most people out there, even lawyers, have no idea what goes on in our classrooms. When we teach well, our direct impact is limited to the group of students who happen to be in our individual classes at that time. Even when an individual is an effective teacher, few people will ever find out about it, other than his or her immediate students. It's frankly nice to have the recognition for performing an activity which is invisible to most members of the public.

On a personal note, the award is important because Tevie Miller was a wonderful man and exemplified the qualities one expects to find in a good lawyer and a good citizen.

*To what do you attribute your teaching excellence?*

This may sound trite, but my mother was an excellent teacher. I was in her class at approximately a grade three level, and I think I owe to her a sense of enthusiasm for teaching, together with a mischievous, absurd and occasionally naughty sense of humour.

*What is your favourite subject to teach?*

There is no doubt that *Contracts* is my favourite subject for two reasons. Firstly, it is offered to first year students whose interest and enthusiasm for the law make the classes quite stimu-

lating. Secondly, it's a great course for getting across some legal process and legal philosophy issues which can otherwise get lost in our first year curriculum.

*What is your favourite case?*

My favourite case changes from year to year. However, I suppose that for a number of years, *Ron Engineering* has occupied that role. The failings of the decision emphasize that reasoning about contracts and the nature of contracts is important. The judgment loses sight of the fact that contract creates reciprocal obligations and as a result it unleashed a torrent of litigation. The technical reasoning adopted by the court allows one party to receive a potentially huge windfall, simply because the other party made an honest mistake, a conclusion which would not be reached in any other area of the subject.

*What is your least-favourite aspect of being a law professor (other than grading exams and papers)?*

As you rightly guessed, undoubtedly it's grading exams and papers. I would have to add that dealing with slow-moving committee structures and university bureaucracies are not my favourite activities either.

*How did you get into teaching?*

I was a graduate student at the University of Virginia and came to spend Christmas in Edmonton with my brother and his family. I met then Dean Gerard LaForest who attracted

me to a career in teaching, which was probably my natural inclination anyway.

*What is your most triumphant legal moment and most embarrassing legal mistake?*

I took a year's leave to article in Edmonton at one stage. I found making any successful court application to be quite exhilarating. Possibly the greatest sense of satisfaction came more recently as a result of winning a

course of the receivership, the file was so disorganized that no one could have possibly understood from the record in the file what had been done and what still needed to be done.

I can say that this led to a marginal improvement in the way I maintained files!

*Had you not become a law professor, what alternative career would you have (liked to have) pursued?*

If I had not pursued law at University, I would probably have taken a degree in French literature. However, now if I were not a lawyer, my ideal career would be as the owner of a select small vineyard in a particularly scenic part of France, probably in Burgundy or the Cotes du Rhône. As a second choice, I would run a wine importing business.

*Tell us something about your childhood.*

I grew up in South Shields, an industrial town 10 miles east of Newcastle in northern England. At that time it was known for coal mining and ship building but it has since "de-industrialized" rapidly. In many ways, it was a rough town, although I grew up in a middle class background because, as I mentioned, my mother was a school teacher. My father worked for a brewery, which explains the other passion in my life.

Looking back, I suspect that I was bookish by inclination, although I participated avidly in sports just to prove that I could do it, though without any great talent. Essentially, I played rugby all winter and cricket and tennis all summer.

*Did you take any music lessons as a child?*

I play the stereo. Unless you count listening as a talent,

my musical talents are non-existent. At the age of thirteen, I was allowed to remain in the school choir only on the condition that I mouthed the words without emitting any sound. It had never previously occurred to me that I could not sing a note, so I quickly retired from that line of work.

*Tell us something about your personal life.*

My wife is a clinical psychologist in Edmonton and enjoying establishing a professional life now that the children have fled the nest. Our son took a degree in English and is now involved in website design and marketing in Chicago. Our daughter took Political Science and is now at Oxford, pursuing a master's degree in international relations.

*Who is your favourite comedian? What is your favourite movie and novel?*

Probably because of my background, I continue to be an unabashed fan of both Monty Python and Fawlty Towers. I love a sense of the absurd in comedy and that is one area in which I constantly show my English roots.

I take the question about a favourite movie of all time very seriously. Too many people when they answer this type of question choose a favourite recent movie, which by definition has yet to stand the test of time. For me, a favourite genre in both books and film involves those which involve the slow descent of Europe into Nazism. I find fascinating the initial acceptance of small changes in life in the early thirties, followed by the staggering realization that it had become too late to do anything effective. It also forces me to wonder what I would have done had I grown up just one generation earlier and lived in continental Europe.

This explains my choice of a group of movies, including the *Garden of the Finzi - The*

*Continued page 15*



VP Academic, Vivek Warrier presented Professor Percy with the Tevie H. Miller Award

wrongful dismissal action in Small Claims Court for a client who was not very well off against an employer who had been totally unreasonable.

Like most people, I suspect that I have totally suppressed all memories of embarrassing legal mistakes. However, when articling, I had felt a great deal of satisfaction concluding a rather complex small receivership. I was properly chagrined when the managing partner commented that the file was a disgrace. He mentioned that, had I dropped dead in the



Members of the Law Show 2000 Committee presented Kid's Kottage with a cheque on February 18 in the amount of \$11,600, representing the proceeds of this year's LAW SHOW and SILENT AUCTION. Pictured left to right, Stefania Valle, Silent Auction Coordinator, Jon Stolee, Law Show Treasurer, Jacqueline Galloway, Development Director for Kid's Kottage and Jane Steblecki, Director of LAW SHOW 2000.

EDMONTON • CALGARY • VEGREVILLE

founded 1894

**DUNCAN & CRAIG**

LAWYERS & MEDIATORS

(780) 428-6036  
www.duncanandcraig.com

# OBITER DICTA

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## A Glimpse of South Africa

By Jonathan Carlzon (2L)

3 months and a few days into my second year of law school, I found myself waiting at 3 AM for a friend in an abandoned parking lot facing the beachfront. I'm definitely not in Edmonton. Instead, I am spending the fall semester of my second year in the city of Durban, South Africa. Durban, known for its temperate climate, great surf, and wonderful beaches, has a stretch of hotels lining the beach for kilometres. Unfortunately, it also has the highest crime rates in the world. And while I am getting nervous sitting in the car, I keep telling myself that this is the type of experience that I wanted. My friend has gone inside the hotel, and I sit with another friend waiting for him. Out of nowhere, a figure appears out of the darkness. He keeps moving closer to our car. By the time he is almost at our door, I am starting to get worried. South Africa is well known for its hijackings, and I was not keen to experience this phenomenon. My friend quickly whispers to me "keep the door locked, and don't unroll the window." The stranger supposedly wants some spare change to get to a neighbouring city. Tonight he has come to the wrong car, as all he gets are puzzled looks and shakes of the head. Thankfully, he keeps on moving and does not hassle us. Maybe all he wanted

was money. Maybe he did need bus fare. But he would not get it from us tonight.

My friend proceeds to talk about some of his experiences in South Africa. He casually mentions about a small boy that he drove past who had obviously been beaten and was bleeding. On that occasion, after much thought, he stopped to pick up the boy. It turns out the boy had been beaten and gang-raped. He left the boy at the police station. What is remarkable about this story is what happened after my friend left the boy with the police. Upon arriving at his home, he related the story to his family, who were in disbelief that he would stop for this boy. They were shocked that he would take such a risk in the middle of the night. The story tells a powerful truth about the state of South Africa. People are afraid. People do not trust anyone.

My friend continues his stories, almost taking a pride in what he and his family have survived. He takes particular pride in his father, who has survived two hijacking attempts.

Well, that was on Sunday. On Monday a good friend has his car stolen. And at the end of last week, another acquaintance was forcibly dragged from her office and assaulted in a quiet seaside town. Dinner conversation tonight revolves around the need to install a security fence around the

property. When I mention that these happenings do not occur with such frequency in most societies, I am greeted with the response that North American cities must be just as dangerous as Durban. South Africans do not seem to realize that they are living in an abnormally violent society. It seems that the population has become desensitized to violence and death.

Let me give you another example. Besides leading the world in the number of rapes committed, property theft, and murders, South Africa also has the dubious distinction of having the highest traffic fatality rate in the world. In the 6-week holiday period spanning Christmas and New Years, over 900 people died in traffic accidents in the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Yet this statistic 'barely raised a ripple of alarm.' Says Perry Parirenyatwa, spokesman for the transportation department's road-safety campaign, "I think it is a symptom of how traumatized South Africans are by their history. We need a change in our emotional make-up because, really, these death numbers should move anyone who still has feelings."

Life goes on in South Africa, despite all of these murderous statistics. And while it is a bit shocking to hear those figures, a brief look through my

journal entries confirmed I made the right decision in going to South Africa. According to my entries for the first week of August, I was faced with dizzying prospects of whether to try surfing, take in diving in southern Mozambique, or go on a safari. Somewhere between finding a place to live and starting classes, I was able to work my way up to the St. Lucia Estuary (a huge wildlife reserve just south of Mozambique), take in game viewing at Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Parks, check out the Counting Crows concert in Durban, and watch my first live rugby match between the Natal Sharks and the Transvaal Lions. I may have been feeling a little homesick during those first few weeks, but looking back, I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything.

Academically, South Africa was an incredible place to study law. Anyone lucky enough to live in South Africa during the first few years after apartheid will be exposed to a society that is struggling in many ways. Living in South Africa and attempting to understand the challenges of a newly established multi-racial democracy and the role of the law poses enormous opportunities for academic and personal growth. While in Durban, I was also able to undertake a research project on youth alternative mea-

sure programs in South Africa, which looked at the use of diversion programs for at-risk youth and street children. The project developed the idea of using law students as resource persons and administrators for youth diversion programs in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

So if you are a little bored with life at the U of A, maybe you should consider taking a semester at another law school. Even if you are not bored, the benefits of studying at another law school or in a non-common-law country can be great. Travel can often be the best education. And don't let finances stop you from pursuing this option. There are many organizations that are willing to sponsor semesters abroad. The bulk of my program cost was picked up by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), which offered a scholarship to students in professional programs tenable at any university in Africa or Asia.

So keep your eyes open. There are a lot of programs and scholarships out there that are specifically aimed at law students. It is possible to see the world and go to school at the same time. And if you happen to end up in Durban, South Africa, make sure you check out the warm waters of the Indian Ocean on your days off.



Go ahead  
**Soar**  
We're with you all the way

Fraser Milner's Edmonton office will be accepting applications and resumes for articling positions for the articling year 2001 - 2. Interviews will commence in accordance with anticipated Law Society rules.

To submit a resume or to request a copy of our articling program, visit our Home Page at:

<http://www.frasermilner.com> or call or write us at

(Tel) 780.423.7100 (Fax) 780.423.7276

2900, 10180 - 101 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3V5



**FRASER MILNER**

Lawyers for Business

# OBITER DICTA

April 2000

The Law Students Newspaper

## Puppy Column: Comments on First-Year Law

By Teji Sandhar (1L)

As the academic year nears its end we find ourselves moving slightly beyond that important juncture at which we found ourselves in September. Considering the seeming importance of this new path we have embarked on, it might be prudent to reflect on what we have learned so far. Before I do any reflecting however, I must say that one underlying premise of these comments is the fact that what we learn is more a reflection of what we want to learn and not necessarily what is being taught. The second is that any criticism that is found in these comments is most applicable to myself.

When I gave some thought to what I have gained in this first year of Law I was quite despondent at what I found. First, I thought about the statement by Ralph Nader that, "a degree of the intellectual arrogance at the Law School is based on technical competence." What I was struck by was the fact that after the first year, we may not have the "technical competence" but we sure have filled ourselves with "intellectual arrogance." This problem, however, is most likely a temporary one for most of us. One laudable purpose of the Articling experience may be to replace this "intellectual arrogance" with some much needed "technical competence."

There is another trend, however, that is more saddening and perhaps harder to deal with for it is based on what has become a reasonable way of thinking. This has to do with what role we will play in our society once we have gained those priceless parchments. Some of us still talk about *how* we will, armed with our law degrees, fight all types of evil and injustice in our society. I think that the question is not so much about *how* but *will* we actually do that. To borrow from Ralph Nader again, "are we up to it?" (or) Are we cowards, purely biological beings, who have to have two cars, split level homes, money in the bank, and the comfort of a steady job — the kind of life whose trajectory is well known "if we follow the tried steps of getting along by going along."

Sadly, these words spoken almost thirty years ago are a perfect description of what law school has become all about. Of course, that is no fault of the law school, considering the four first-year *Perspectives Units* presented in a fashion that causes even the cynics among us to rise up and fight against the social injustice that exists all around us. The problem is not even one of curriculum or the professors who teach it. The real problem has to do with why people come to law

school and what they expect of it when they get here. Law school has become less about *Law* and *Justice* and more about finding a "well paying job". Therefore, if we the students are to blame, then we must ask ourselves why are we more concerned about finding well paying jobs and seemingly not at all about *Law* and *Justice*.

I for one would quickly respond that I volunteer for Student Legal Services and would be willing to do any type of volunteer work related to social justice issues. Yet we all know that, other than a few, most of us are involved in these extra-curricular activities in order to "pad" the resume for those "well paying jobs" or perhaps a career in academia, if there is actually a difference between the two. Yet one more sophisticated than myself might point to the necessity of having to find a good job in order to pay off those huge student debts. Is that not, however, an issue of injustice itself, that we are so willing to sacrifice years of our labour to pay off what might in fact be a responsibility of the government. Considering the millions if not billions that governments are willing to "invest" in the corporate sector, does it not seem more justifiable to invest that in people through education?

As Ralph Nader pointed out what it really boils down to is the "materialism syndrome". "To what small degree are law graduates willing to sacrifice their material standard of living? The model and year of car, the type of apartment or house, clothes and food, the conspicuous consumption." As true as these criticisms may be, they still don't answer the underlying question as to why we, and our society generally have become this way.

I for one, and I suspect many others also, have succumbed to the idea that our society is relatively *Just* and all the great causes have been successfully fought. After all, freedom, equality and fraternity, those great pillars of our liberal-democracies, are readily available in the global market. Those pesky little problems that keep coming up are dealt with quite nicely by those progressive and ingenious documents that are given names such as the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Most of us take comfort in the idea that there is no substantial injustice that we need to concern ourselves with. Since there are no great injustices or evils to fight there is no reason not to take advantage of this and make the best for yourself. Yet that is exactly

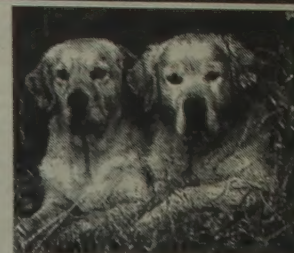
how most people felt about their societies when women had to fight to get the vote and the likes of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mandela had to fight to win freedom and justice for their people. The fact is that the very reality they fought against was viewed as the natural order to things at that time.

Is that not what we think of our reality? Is not economic inequality and the poverty that results from it viewed as being based on the natural inequalities that exist among us? Or is this reality another illusion that prevents us from finding Justice? Are we not more concerned about our economic well being than our right to vote? Clearly law students are. Was Gandhi not right when he said that, "the masses... their politics are confined to bread". So if that line of reasoning is correct, then a justice system that maintains that reality is the real cause of injustice. This hollow justice is in fact the very injustice that it is supposed to fight.

In fact we should take

heart, for the real causes that need to be fought are still out there. If political equality is not a way to justice then we have to take the next step and attempt to attain economic and social equality and see if we find justice there. The *Aids Kids of Africa*, *Child Labourers of India*, the *Homeless and Single Mothers of Canada*, to mention just a few, demand that we take up that cause and seek justice for them. The tyrants that the likes of Gandhi and Mandela fought against are no longer identifiable. Democracy without social justice makes tyrants of all those who participate in and gain from it. To speak against injustice is to speak against yourself, especially if you are, or are being trained to be a member of the very profession that is for the most part responsible for maintaining the current order.

The solution, however, is not one of giving up those lucrative corporate-sectors jobs. In fact that may even contribute to the problem. The solution is an internal one. We must



internalise these issues of justice and allow them to influence whatever role we find ourselves in.

Therefore as we near the end of our first year in this "noble" profession we should do some introspection and see if we will allow ourselves to be implicated in further injustice or take a few small steps to stand up to it. In a way we have to stand up against ourselves. As Gandhi pointed out, "the only devils in the world are those running around in our own hearts where all our battles ought to be fought". Perhaps we can find a balance between the two. Maybe one car, a nice little house, and a few nice clothes will allow us to use this great opportunity to win that little battle and in doing so actually make a difference, not just in the world but in ourselves.

## Career Services

Continued from page 2

resume and cover letter, a discussion on strategy and interview suggestions. As some firms hire without posting their positions, I suggest that students not only wait for notices from the Career Services Office but continue with their own inquiries of firms.

### BEGINNING ARTICLES IN ALBERTA:

Third year students will have seen my notices to pick up the registration form for the Alberta Bar Admission Course from outside my office. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2000, however, those who missed the deadline can still reg-

ister. It will also be necessary for students to apply to the Law Society for registration as a student-at-law. Application packages for this will be available in mid April and I will be sent several sets. When they are in, I will let students know. Before obtaining a set from me, though, students should check with their firms as many firms get packages directly from the Law Society and contact their incoming students about them. When available, packages can also be obtained directly from the Law Society in Calgary by calling 1-800-661-9003. The required forms, documents and fees must be provided to the Law

Society on or before the first day of articles. Students beginning their articles prior to receiving their degree parchment must ask the Dean's office to fax a letter to the Law Society after the May marks approval meeting, confirming that a degree will be issued. Students articling with the Courts should see me to obtain special forms, which replace two of the standard forms in the Law Society package.

Anyone having questions about the commencement of articles in other provinces is invited to see me.

## BENNETT JONES

Local roots. National presence. International reach.

The history - 77 years of delivering top-tier legal services and setting new standards for service excellence

The achievements - a Canadian leader in mergers and acquisitions, a pioneer in technology law, one of the top tax advisors in Canada, a formidable contender in civil litigation and an internationally recognized authority on energy law

The goal - to be the law firm of choice in all areas in which we practise



Bennett Jones

law firm of choice

www.bennettjones.ca



# SPORTS

The Law Students Newspaper

April 2000

## Sports Round-Up

by Kate Clayton, VP Sports (2L)

Hello again, sports fans. Welcome to the final installment of this year's L.S.A. Sports Column. Special congratulations go out to **Erin Kuzyk (2L)**, member of the 2000 C.I.A.U. Women's Hockey National Championship Pandas. Despite taking a brutal shot to her mouth in the semi-final game, Erin managed to return to help the Pandas win their first ever National Championship. Way to go Erin!!!

Congratulations also go out to our own Ladies Hockey Squad who made an appearance in the semi-competitive division finals in the fall semester. Unfortunately for the ladies, scheduling conflicts demanded the finals be played on a Sunday, resulting in a conflict for many team members also participating in Law Show. As a result the ladies' squad was forced to default their shot at the championship. Better luck next season ladies!

After a slow start in the fall semester (0-1-2), the Division II Beagles have managed to go 2-0-2 this winter. The team's improvement happens to coincide with the loss of **Keith Reichert (2L)** (a.k.a. Crazy Bob) in net, due to a shoulder injury sustained while preparing for his upcoming moot. Unfortunately, even with stand-up replacement **Tina Huizinga (3L)** between the pipes, the Beagles will be out of contention for a playoff spot this year.

However, that's not stopping the "Send the Message Line" of **Mike Vollman (3L)**, **John Cusano (3L)** and **James**

**Kidd (2L)** from performing their magic. According to Mr. Kidd, "Not only do we send the message, we reinforce it as well." Tough talk from a team that will not make an appearance in post season play this year. On the Division I front, our "new look" Eagles have gone 2-2-1 since the

showing by our girls in **Broomball** was aborted early due to problems with the outdoor ice surface and weather. Despite a tough loss in their first game, the girls showed their strength by showing up in full force to compete in -27 C blizzard conditions, only to have Pharmacy chicken

ing tournament of the season, our **Co-Rec Volleyball** team managed to regain its composure and go 3-0 the following week. Continued strong play by **Nathan Baines (2L)** is sure to help secure the continued success of **Law's Volleyball dominance**.

Similarly, our **Floor Hockey**

annual Ping Pong Tournament. Way to go Andrew!

Much to the chagrin of our ever enthusiastic participant, **Professor Rod Wood**, the L.S.A.'s annual **Bite the Button Curling Bonspiel** was canceled due to lack of interest and scheduling conflicts. Better luck next year.

As this will be my final column of the year I would like to extend a special thank you to this year's Law Students Association. As was evident from the campaign speeches, many members of the L.S.A. are unaware of what their annual fees fund throughout the year. Intramurals are just one of the many things the L.S.A. funds and administers throughout the year for its members. Each year the L.S.A. funds the significant registration costs that students would otherwise be individually responsible for. To date, the L.S.A. has funded \$1,690.00 in participation fees for all faculty of law intramural participants. Thank you to the L.S.A. for continuing to fund this integral part of student life!

Additionally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my fellow L.S.A. Executive for their help in planning and supervising all of the L.S.A. sponsored sporting events throughout the year. In particular, the help of **Andrew Kay** for serving on the Men's Intramural Council as the Faculty of Law Unit Representative. Congratulations to Andrew in his recent election win for VP Sports 2000-2001. Thanks to everyone who participated!



U of A women's law hockey team

Christmas break. According to team "captain" **Chris Croteau (2L)**, strong performances by **Dan Bokenfohr (2L)** and **Chris Millsap (1L)** have made a playoff spot for the Eagles inevitable. The strength between the pipes of **Jason Russell (3L)** and the continued support of the "Jersey Girlzz" make playoff success likely as well. Good luck with the rest of the season boys!

Continuing on ice, a strong

out on them. The ladies finished out the broomball season with a default win and an ultra competitive match amongst themselves, that saw **Stephanie Kwok (2L)** score twice while **Dana Turner (2L)** made some stellar stops at the other end of the ice. Kudos to these chicks with sticks for showing so much heart in such a disheartening season!

Heading to the courts now, after falling 1-2 in the first seed-

girls are looking to dominate the gym after their season opening 4-2 win over the **Church of Latter Day Saints**. Despite a high sticking call on **Kate Lobitz (2L)** against **Carrie Steil (1L)** (her own teammate), a hat trick by the ever reliable **Melanie Miller (2L)** helped secure their first win. Finally, in individual sports, incoming VP Sports, **Andrew Kay (2L)**, managed to make it to the "A" Finals of the

## Interview with Professor Percy

Continued from page 12

*Contini and Life is Beautiful*. However, my absolute favourite has to be *Cabaret*, which combines a tremendous atmosphere with great music and performances by **Joel Gray** and **Liza Minnelli**.

In books, I am very eclectic and love good thrillers. I think that I have read every word that **John le Carré** has published. Probably my favourite novelist is **John Irving** because of his Dickensian story telling and because his views of the world seem to be so close to my own. My favourite novel of his is *A Prayer for Owen Meanie*, though I also liked *Cider House Rules* and recently enjoyed the movie version.

What hobbies do you pursue?

I enjoy refereeing rugby, playing recreational hockey at an abject level, gardening and cooking. I love most outdoor activities, including cycling, hiking and skiing.

What is the most excit-

ing thing you have ever done, or place visited?

This question raises a host of images in my mind, ranging from a back country ski trip, to the successful climb of a mountain in Colorado when I was a student and to refereeing successfully a first-division rugby game in New Zealand. However, I would have to choose teaching a course in Bangladesh as an unparalleled combination of interesting activity conducted in a fascinating place.

Outside of career and family, what is your proudest accomplishment?

As I am not allowed to discuss my career or family for this question, I would have to point to a couple of physical achievements. One was completing a 55 km cross country ski marathon in Hinton and the other was turning in a pretty good time on a 21 km leg of the Jasper / Banff relay. Some major rugby games are also promi-

nent in this respect.

What is your favourite food? What is your favourite fruit? (Why?)

I love all good food. If I really had to choose my favourite type of food, it would have to be served in a Michelin starred restaurant in the French countryside. However, as the result of a visit to Japan last year, I place Japanese kaiseki cuisine as a very close second. My favourite fruit is a luscious fresh peach in August. I think it is because I imagine all the sunshine that has created the intense flavour.

Is there any politician in Ottawa who is competent to govern you?

Well, I can answer this question by a process of elimination. There is no one on the opposition benches who meets the criterion, so that I would have to say that the answer is **Paul Martin**, ably assisted by my former colleague, **Anne McLellan**.

## TOP TEN

SIGNS THE FIRM YOU ARE ARTICLING WITH MAY NOT BE RIGHT FOR YOU

10. After settling in to your new office, you realize ... that's not a laser printer, it's a paper towel dispenser; the three sinks aren't a wet bar; and porcelain is not the new trendy material for office chairs
9. Your office phone only dials one number ... the Law Society Practice Advisor
8. You have your own parking spot, but you have to get there early and bring lots of change
7. Office memos to you are always addressed "To: Sacrificial Virgin"
6. Last year's student sues the firm, and you're asked to research all the existing case law on "Intentional Infliction of Mental Suffering"
5. On your first day, someone asks about your new apartment and adds "Hope you only signed a month-to-month lease"
4. The senior partners insist the white robes and pointy hoods in the closet are just the latest in chic fitness club wear
3. Two Words: "Urine Tests"
2. An associate tells you "the entire firm is going on a weekend retreat to the Jasper Park Lodge .... Can you feed my cat while we're gone?"

## AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN

THE FIRM YOU ARE ARTICLING WITH MAY NOT BE RIGHT FOR YOU

1. After telling everyone in the office about the "special someone" you picked up last night, and describing their distinctive and uniquely located tattoo in painstaking detail, you discover that he/she is the managing partner's spouse



BARRISTERS SOLICITORS

Reynolds  
Mirth  
Richards  
& Farmer

## GOOD STUDENTS ARE GOLD

*At RMRF we've been hiring great students* and turning them into excellent lawyers since 1915. Our lawyers, past and present, have earned us a reputation that we are extremely proud of. We've had appointments to all levels of the courts including the Supreme Court of Canada.

*We know our business* and we do it well.

We've worked on everything from hospital restructuring to high-profile media cases, from the Charter to the Confederation Bridge, from the formation of municipalities within National Parks to East Coast off-shore drilling projects.

*The choice of articles* is a decision that will affect the rest of your life.

So don't rush and don't be rushed.

Do some research.

Ask tough questions.

Take the time you need.

**And never lose sight of your own worth.**

*Good articling students are gold.*

If you're good, you'll have choices.

We want to be compared. So shop a little.

We think we'll compare very favourably indeed.

We are now accepting applications for the 2001-2002 articling year. If we missed you at the articling fair call Cherisse Killick-Dzenick at 497.3372 and ask for one of our articling packages.

And send your resume.

We might be just what you're looking for.

# www.rmrf.com

Suite 3200, Manulife Place

10180 - 101 Street

Edmonton, AB T5J 3W8

Ph (780) 425.9510 Fx (780) 429.3044